

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
October 17, 2023 at 11
Virtual meeting

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger (Chair), Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, Ned Wolf, and
MLP Manager Sheila Litchfield

Art called the meeting to order at 11.

Members read the minutes of the September 19th meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 ayes and one abstention.

MLP Manager's Report

Sheila said that the amendment changes for CAF II affect the payment process. She clarified that it's the MLP Manager who signs and not the Select Board. She sent the MLB the document.

For tree trimming, Sheila said that each town needs to form an agreement with a small company. Each town is responsible for its own tree trimming. Our goal should be to find a company that can respond to an emergency situation as well as agree to a schedule of preventative maintenance. David's map will be useful. She plans to draft a plan and discuss it with Bill.

Sheila said that the notices of Verizon pole attachment fees have been received. The fees will be on the warrant for the Wired West Board meeting on October 18th.

At the September 26th Meet and Greet critical slides indicated the success of speed testing. WCF said the localities passed with flying colors.

Sheila said we have received from WCF a \$4,344.22 check for pass through drop fees. It will go into the Other Revenue fund.

Sheila said that the August installations invoice has been received, rescinded, and approved. The double billing for ITG work was corrected.

On June 30, 2024 our contract with Wired West expires as do the contracts of the other Wired West towns. David suggested that it's not too early to try to anticipate changes in the new contract.

Sheila reported that a regulatory increase will affect the Ooma bill. There is some uncertainty as to whether it affects any fees that Wired West covers.

Sheila looked forward to a day when we may want for the hut a mini-split instead of an air conditioning unit.

RRR Project

David sent us notes on the October 11 th call with WCF, Nokia, and the Northern Ring towns. This call was for WCF and Nokia to report on User Acceptance Testing of the five town mesh network. All tests passed. Most of the testing was apparently done after the deployment of the switches to the huts but before the cut-over from the existing network last June.

He said that at some point WCF would need to make changes changes to implement voice prioritization.

MBI Charlemont is a work in progress. The IGA has been signed.

Sheila has contacted Cebula but still has no access to the site camera at the hut.

Sheila will send the MLB her letter about the broadband installation at 612 Rte. 8A.

David asked Sheila about the number of hours she's been working each week as MLP Manager. She said that so far she's been able to keep the number of hours she works as MLP Manager under 10 each week and closer to 8. She hasn't yet done the transfer for her salary. Her hours per week could increase due to her being a member of the negotiating team.

Dates of Next MLB Meetings: November 14 at 11

December 19 “ “

David moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:10. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf